State/Zone	Sugarcane Price Arrears as on 31/12/2002
Assam	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	12,292.53
Karnataka	23,082.00
Tamil Nadu	10,764.70
Kerala	177.00
Orissa	247.77
West Bengal	249.28
Nagaland	0.00
Pondicherry	32.31
Goa	84.72
ALL INDIA TOTAL:	86,957.50

Testing of Mineral Water

†974. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Mineral Water Ke Naya Manak Tai Karane Mei Juta Bureau" published in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 9th February, 2003;

(b) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards is contemplating to set new standards for testing of mineral water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has already evolved

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

amendments in Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water in order to align them with the world's best norms for pesticide residues. They will be implemented after they are incorporated in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already issued a notification inviting comments from public to amend the standards of Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act Rules, 1955.

Starvation Deaths

975. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally decided to address the problem of starvation deaths while its graineries are spilling over with surplus stocks;

(b) whether as per the new scheme Government would purchase foodgrains from the surplus stock out of the funds provided by the Indian Corporate Houses and provide 'INDIAMIX', newly developed combination of grains with high protein value for distribution to the poor; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this scheme and its impact on the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) In addition to distribution of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System, the Government has already launched other schemes to provide foodgrains to the people, especially the weaker sections of the society, at affordable prices.

(b) and (c) Financial assistance has been provided to M/s Maa Mangla Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. at Radha Charanpur, Distt. Khurda (Orissa) for setting up/expansion and modernization of its food processing unit for manufacturing 'INDIAMIX' which is a ready-to-eat food suitable for dietary supplement for elders, infants and children. The above unit has a capacity of 3840 MT per annum and at present it is supplying 'INDIAMIX' to the World Food Programme (WFP).